

Ken don Feby 18 1841.

Rev. Saml. May

Dear Sir Dr.

Your communication
of the 12 inst., in behalf of the Joint Meeting of the
Executive Committees of the Worcester North & South
Division Anti Slavery Societies, reached me on the 15th.
I see & feel the need of new & vigorous efforts to rouse
the true Anti Slavery energies of the people, now
torpid, & almost defunct in this County. But my
engagements Pastoral, Editorial &c. are at present such
that I hardly know how it would be possible to comply
with the invitation of the Committees for whom you
speak. I frequently lecture on the subject of Slavery
as I find the door open, & probably could render
more of the same kind of service to the cause in
the neighboring towns, if I taxed myself a little
heavier. But to bring much to pass, I think it would
require me to give up the most of my time & thought
to the work. If I do this, I must relinquish my parish,
^{the supervision of} & ~~perhaps~~ my paper, the Practical Christian - though
perhaps not wholly the last. I believe I could by
divine aid effect a great change in the A.S. Character
of Worcester Co - if I were to give myself mainly to
that object. As it is, too many irons in the fire would
hardly allow me to do justice to all - perhaps
to none.

I have thought that it was best on the whole not to engage at present to perform the service requested. Sometimes I have thought I would resign my pastoral office entirely, & go more into the reform causes of the day; but I have not yet decided to do so. What may be by & by, I know not. Should I take my liberty, I might then throw myself upon the people more at large. As it respects the means of support I never have been extravagant & do not wish to become so. A decent competence I should desire in common with my fellow-men.

I suppose a Lecture in this County or elsewhere must depend pretty much on the liberality of a few friends of the cause, or rather on the interest he might awaken among the people - evidenced in the way of contributions. Things are in a bad way among us at present; & I pray that some new movement may spring up to restore the languishing tone of the A.S. voice in the Wilderness.

There is a very worthy man, a Bro minister of mine now out of business residing in West Boylston^{David R Lanson} - a good man & true toward the slave, as in every other good cause. I wish you would engage him in your service. I think (though I do not certainly know) that he would like to engage in the cause, if he could be but moderately compensated. He is a good lecturer though not so popular & stirring as some perhaps. You know

him I presume. He was settled in Berlin sometime
since. He is so pure minded, sincere, & prudent,
& at the same time respectable as a writer & speaker,
that I feel sure he could render good service to
the cause. Let me receive a line from you again
soon in answer to this, with such further explanat-
ions of the plan of operations as you can conven-
iently give.

And meantime, believe me your & the slaves
friend & humble servant, — Adin Ballou

Mendon Ms } Recd. Feb. 19.
Feb 18.

Rev. Samuel May
Leicester Ms.